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and lays it bare; and if one fall upon his leg or arm, it is usually broken; but young men being greedy of honour, and desirous of victory, do thus exercise themselves in counterfeit battles, that they may bear the brunt more strongly when they come to it in good earnest.

Many citizens take delight in birds, as sparrow-hawks, goss-hawks, and such like, and in dogs to hunt in the woody ground. The citizens have authority to hunt in Middlesex, Hertfordshire, all the Chilterns, and in Kent, as far as the Gray Water.

*For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.*

#### ACCOUNT OF THE AFRICAN INSTITUTION.

*(Continued from Page 265, No. IV.)*

THE Report made by the Committee, on the 15th of July last, contained a general view of the objects proposed by the institution, with an answer to some popular objections that had been urged against the practicability of its plans. This report has been printed, and largely circulated, both in London and in every part of the united kingdom, and, as the Committee have reason to believe, has produced, wherever it has been circulated, an impression in favour of the institution.

The first care of the Committee has been to open a correspondence with such persons in Africa as were likely to be useful in promoting the Society's views. The persons to whom they have written are Mr. Ludlam, the Governor of Sierra Leone, and Mr. Torrane, the Governor of Cape Coast Castle.

They directed Mr. Ludlam's attention, in the first instance, to the important object of giving full effect to the act for abolishing the Slave Trade, requesting to be informed, from time to time, of the actual state of that trade (whether British or Foreign) on the coast; of the degree in which the abolition laws of Great Britain, and of other nations, are effectual; and, if ineffectual, by what means, and under what pretences they are evaded; and also what steps

may be advantageously taken to prevent such evasion.

The Committee, however, were aware, that even the complete prevention of the export of slaves from the coast, might produce little immediate effect in civilizing Africa, unless something could be done to counteract those pernicious habits which the slave trade had nourished, and particularly to convince the native chiefs how essential it is to the prosperity of their country, that measures should be immediately adopted for insuring to their subjects the safe enjoyment of person and property.

The Committee directed Mr. Ludlam's attention to various other points, such as the best means of setting on foot journeys of discovery, of promoting agriculture, of cultivating the friendship and confidence of the native powers, and of producing among them, a spirit of union and harmony. And besides requesting him to furnish the Committee with all the information in his power respecting the natural productions of Africa, its agricultural and commercial facilities, and the moral, intellectual, and political condition of its inhabitants: they particularly urged him, with a view to the success and stability of the colony of Sierra Leone, to employ the lights, which an experience of upwards of ten years had afforded him, in pointing out, with precision and in detail, the system of policy which appeared to him best suited to the circumstances of the colony, in regard to its interior management, and its relations with the African chiefs; and in regard also to the promotion of civilization, both within the colony, and, by means of the colony, among the surrounding natives.

The Committee, at the same time, empowered Mr. Ludlam to erect a school at Sierra Leone, under the patronage, and at the expense of the Institution, the object of which should be not merely to teach reading and writing, but to combine with these elementary branches of knowledge, instruction in agriculture and other useful arts. It was suggested, that to the school should be annexed a small

farm, which might be cultivated, either wholly or in part, by the labour of the scholars; and where they might be taught to raise, and prepare for market, articles of exportable produce, as well as to rear cattle and cultivate provisions. The state of the Society's funds obliged the Committee to direct that this seminary should be begun on a small scale, (though they wished it to be formed on a plan which should admit of its indefinite extension) and that until their funds would allow of its enlargement, care should be taken that the youths, selected for education, should be of such a rank as would give them influence over their countrymen in after life.

The Committee were encouraged to appropriate to this object a large proportion of their present funds, by the information received from Sierra Leone, that several of the African youths, who had been educated in England by the Sierra Leone Company, were filling offices of trust in the colony with credit to themselves and satisfaction to their employers.

The Committee having learnt that there are now in this country two African youths, about the age of 19 or 20, who have been enjoying, by means of the Sierra Leone company, the benefits of education for the last six or seven years, and that it was intended they should return in no long time to Africa, resolved so take upon themselves the expense of having them fully initiated in Dr. Bell's system of education. Measures are now taking with this view, and the Committee trust that they shall be able, in no long time, to transplant to Africa this cheap and expeditious method of instruction, a boon which may be productive of incalculable benefits to the inhabitants of that continent.

The Committee are of opinion, that the cultivation of the African soil, and a trade in the produce of that country, might be encouraged by the distribution of medals, or other honorary rewards, to such persons as may distinguish themselves by the most successful exertions in these pursuits; but they have not as yet specifically determined the

objects to which such rewards should be applied, and the extent to which it would be proper to carry them. They are also of opinion, that measures might be advantageously taken for engaging in America, or the West Indies, persons of good character, natives of Africa, or the descendants of Africans, who should instruct the colonists and natives in the cultivation and manufacture of indigo; in the best mode of raising and cleaning cotton, rice, and other articles of tropical culture. The prosecution of these measures must, of course, depend on the extent of the Society's funds.

In the consideration of the various articles of exportable produce, which may be cultivated with advantage in Africa, the attention of the Committee has been particularly drawn to cotton. With the mode of raising the cotton tree the natives of the western coast of Africa are almost universally acquainted, although the particular species of cotton grown there (and from which they manufacture cloth of an excellent fabric) is so unsuitable to the English market, that the prices which it would obtain, would not repay the expense of raising it, and conveying it to this country. As the natives of Africa, however, are already familiarized to the culture of cotton; as it requires only six or seven months from the time of sowing the seed, to bring it to maturity; and as the process of preparing it for sale is short and simple, it appeared to the Committee to be a matter of great importance to introduce among them the seed of a superior species of this plant. They accordingly applied to Mr. Alderman Shaw, and Mr. Alderman Prinsep, to use their good offices in procuring for them, the former from Georgia, the latter from the Brazils, a quantity of the best kinds of cotton seed; and from both these gentlemen they have received the most satisfactory promises of assistance. Subsequently to this application, a cargo of cotton, of a very excellent quality, which had not been freed from the seed, arrived in the river Thames. Through the interference of Messrs. Hardcastle and Rayner, two zealous

friends to the improvement of Africa, the purchaser of this cotton has agreed, that the seed, which is found to be in a state of perfect preservation, shall be wholly at the disposal of the Committee. A large quantity of it therefore, put up in small packages, so as to admit of its easy distribution, will be ready for transmission by the first conveyance.

By means of the same gentlemen who have favoured the Institution in this instance, a plentiful supply of seed of the best kind of cotton, though not in an equal state of preservation with that just mentioned, had been procured from a large cotton manufacturer at Manchester; and an opportunity has been taken of sending a part of it to Sierra Leone, by a vessel which left the river about a fortnight ago.

The Committee are aware, that it may be objected to this attempt to extend the cultivation of cotton, that the supply of that article is already equal to the demand; and that therefore the measures pursued by the Committee are impolitic. But they would observe in reply to this objection, that cotton is an article the growth of which in Africa will occasion less of competition with our own colonies, than almost any other article of tropical produce which could be named; and that it is important to be preparing sources from which a supply of cotton may be drawn, should circumstances arise to interrupt our commercial relations with America, or with the other places which now furnish it. But independently of these considerations it may be presumed, that in proportion as the natives of Africa supply us with the raw material, they will be capable of paying for a larger quantity of the manufactured article.

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*To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.*

SIR,

**I**N your last Magazine a writer signed Censor, so far engaged my attention as to draw from me some observations which I do not hesitate to submit to the public, through your impartial publication.

Censor appears on the side of justice and liberality. He censures freely, yet leaves himself open to deep wounds from the hands of any who are in the habit of wielding literary weapons. Censor though a professed advocate of Catholic Emancipation, observes, *however, that it is a subject perplexed with difficulties, arising from the passions of the two opposite parties.* Convincing arguments might be adduced to prove, that the penal and excluding laws are the cause of the passions alluded to. Where then is the difficulty by removing the cause, to remove the effect? or does Censor mean to take the subject by the wrong end, and to remove the cause by removing the effect? If he does, he will meet with difficulties and perplexities. I fondly hope he does not look or wish for them, yet, whenever I meet an attempt to equalize the passions of the oppressors and the oppressed, I am strongly inclined to suspect that the author belongs to the former class, whatever garb he may wear.

Censor, after some just and liberal reflections on the reviewer of Mr. Parnell's "*History of the Penal Laws*," finds fault with another writer, who, he says, *appears to have flattered the prejudices of the Catholic body, by praising them for remaining independent of the crown of Britain, in the appointment of their Bishops; and by commending them at the same time for their dependance on the See of Rome.* This, Censor considers as a glaring inconsistency, and takes occasion from it to deplore the weakness, the errors, the contradictions of human nature. While I join my lamentations to those of Censor, he will pardon me if I say, that there appears to me a greater subject for them in his reasoning than in that which he condemns. The inconsistency which he points out, proceeds solely from the confusion in which his ideas are involved; and if we but simplify and regulate the ideas, the inconsistency will disappear.

Censor's expressions of *dependance on the See of Rome*, mean too much or prove nothing. The present mode of appointing bishops, differs, it is well known, from the strict canonical mode, originally practised in the Catholic Church, which was by election. Any